

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 112805

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MASS, SA, US, JO

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN AIR DEFENSE

REF: JIDDA 3271

1. SECRETARY AGREES THAT YOU SHOULD DISCUSS WITH THE SAUDIS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF JORDANIAN MOVE TOWARD THE SOVIETS, SUCH AS WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY JORDANIAN ACQUISITION OF SOVIET AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. PRESUMABLY YOUR MEETING SUNDAY WITH PRINCE FAHD WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO DO THIS. THE SECRETARY EMPHASIZES, HOWEVER, THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT LEAD SAUDIS TO THINK THAT SUCH A MOVE BY THE JORDANIANS IS OF MORE CONCERN TO US THAN IT SHOULD BE TO THE SAUDIS AND JORDANIANS THEMSELVES. SECRETARY ALSO WANTS TO BE CERTAIN SAUDIS UNDERSTAND THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO STAND BY THEM AND WOULD REMAIN CAPABLE OF HELPING ASSURE THEIR SECURITY EVEN IF JORDAN TURNED TO THE SOVIETS. HE DOES NOT WANT TO LEAVE IMPRESSION THEY WOULD BE DEFENSELESS AND ALONE IN SUCH A CIRCUMSTANCE.

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2. WITHIN FOREGOING GUIDELINES, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON EARLIER ANALYSES WE HAVE PROVIDED INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR PARAS 2, 3, AND 7 OF STATE 105043 (TOSEC 110538). YOU WILL KNOW BEST HOW TO DEVELOP THE THEMES WE HAVE PROVIDED YOU, BUT I

WOULD THINK YOUR GENERAL APPROACH SHOULD BE THAT WE AND SAUDIS OUGHT TO THINK THROUGH TOGETHER WHAT THE LONGER RUN IMPLICATIONS ARE SHOULD HUSSEIN IN FACT OPT FOR A SOVIET AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. KISSINGER

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